

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A lever fitting type connector comprising:

a first connector;

a second connector fitted to the first connector; a lever interposed between the first connector and the second connector, and converting an operation force applied to an operation portion into a fitting force between the first connector and the second connector,

wherein the lever is rotatably pivoted on the first connector, and an engagement portion engaging with the lever is provided on the second connector; and a standing mechanism provided between the lever and the second connector, and the standing mechanism standing the lever when temporarily fitting the first connector to the second connector,

wherein the first connector and the second connector are regularly fixed to each other by applying an operation force to the operation portion in a standing state of the lever.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A lever fitting type connector comprising:

a first connector having a hood portion;

a second connector fitted within the hood portion of the first connector; and

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

a lever interposed between the first connector and the second connector, ~~[[and]]~~
the lever configured to convert~~[[ing]]~~ an operation force applied to an operation portion
into a fitting force between the first connector and the second connector,

wherein the lever is outward fitted ~~to the hood portion~~ and detachably pivoted on
a supporting engagement portion of the first connector, ~~and an~~ a plurality of
engagement portions provided in the second connector are engaged with the lever, and
a groove portion formed in the hood portion ~~escapes~~ accommodates at least one of the
plurality of engagement portions, and

wherein the engagement portions and the groove portion are disposed
substantially symmetrically about ~~[[a]]~~ the supporting engagement portion ~~in a width-~~
~~direction.~~

Claims 3-4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The lever fitting type connector ~~according to of~~
claim 1, wherein the standing mechanism comprises ~~comprising~~:

a first engagement portion provided on the lever; and

a second engagement portion provided on the second connector and engaged
with the first engagement portion~~[[,]]~~

~~wherein the standing mechanism is constituted such that the first connector is~~
~~fitted to the second connector, so that the first connector is engaged with the second~~
~~engagement portion, and~~

~~wherein the first connector is further fitted to the second connector, so that the~~
~~lever rotates and stands up about a pivot portion.~~

Claim 6 (new): A lever fitting type connector comprising:

A'
cont.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

a first connector having a hood portion;
a second connector fitted within the hood portion of the first connector; and
a lever interposed between the first connector and the second connector, the lever converting an operation force applied to an operation portion into a fitting force between the first connector and the second connector;

wherein the lever is outwardly fitted to and detachably pivoted on a supporting engagement portion on the first connector, a plurality of engagement portions are provided in the second connector, and the engagement portions are disposed substantially symmetrically about the supporting engagement portion.

Claim 7 (new): A lever fitting type connector comprising:

a first connector;
a second connector fitted to the first connector; and
a lever interposed between the first connector and the second connector, the lever converting an operation force applied to an operation portion into a fitting force between the first connector and the second connector;

wherein the lever is outwardly fitted to the first connector, an engagement portion on the second connector engages the lever, and the engagement portion is thinner than the first connector.

Claim 8 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 5, wherein the standing mechanism is configured such that when the first connector is fitted to the second connector, the first connector engages the second engagement portion.

Claim 9 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 1, wherein the lever rotates and stands up about a pivot portion.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

Claim 10 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 1, wherein the lever is rotatably pivoted about a supporting engagement portion on the first connector, a plurality of engagement portions are provided on the second connector, and the engagement portions are disposed substantially symmetrically about the supporting engagement portion.

Claim 11 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 10, further comprising a groove portion formed on the first connector configured to accommodate at least one of the plurality of engagement portions;

wherein the groove portion is disposed substantially symmetrically about the supporting engagement portion.

Claim 12 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 1, wherein the engagement portion is thinner than the first connector.

Claim 13 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 2, wherein the engagement portion is thinner than the first connector.

Claim 14 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 6, wherein the engagement portion is thinner than the first connector.

Claim 15 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 1, wherein prior to temporarily fitting of the first connector to the second connector the standing mechanism does not stand the lever, and after temporarily fitting of the first connector to the second connector the standing mechanism also does not stand the lever.

Claim 16 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 1, wherein the lever is rotatably pivoted on a central portion of the first connector.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

Claim 17 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 1, wherein the first connector is configured such that the lever may be reversibly mounted on the first connector.

Claim 18 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 2, wherein the first connector is configured such that the lever may be reversibly fitted to the first connector.

Claim 19 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 6, wherein the first connector is configured such that the lever may be reversibly fitted to the first connector.

Claim 20 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 7, wherein the first connector is configured such that the lever may be reversibly fitted to the first connector.

Claim 21 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 2, wherein the substantially symmetrical disposition of the engagement portions and the groove portion about the supporting engagement portion allows the lever to be reversibly fitted to the supporting engagement portion.

Claim 22 (new): The lever fitting type connector of claim 6, wherein the substantially symmetrical disposition of the engagement portions about the supporting engagement portion allows the lever to be reversibly fitted to the supporting engagement portion.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com